
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE Governor's Office

Executive Order 76

THE VIRGINIA BIOTECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

Advancements in biotechnology will have far-reaching human, environmental, and economic impacts. Virginia has many of the necessary assets and qualities that would make it an attractive location for this promising new industry of the 21st Century. These assets include major research universities, partner companies, medical schools, and federal and state laboratories. The Commonwealth has already invested in centers dedicated to the creation and growth of private sector companies that are developing promising new products and services to enhance human lives, improve the environment, and create new high-paying job opportunities for Virginians. The biotechnology industry also has the potential to benefit agriculture, manufacturing, and marine-based commerce.

To be competitive in growing and attracting this industry, Virginia needs a comprehensive and coordinated statewide strategy for biotechnology. Such a strategy was recently developed by the Governor's Advisory Board for the Virginia Biotechnology Initiative. This strategy has been well received and is now ready for implementation.

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth including, but not limited to, Chapter 1 of Title 2.2 and Section 2.2-2100 of the Code of Virginia, and subject to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, I direct a joint effort involving both the public and private sectors for the purpose of establishing an implementation plan to ensure that Virginia will become a recognized center for biotechnology comparable to the reputation the Commonwealth now enjoys in other technology sectors. I further direct the Secretary of Commerce and Trade to integrate the results of this effort into the development of the economic development policy required by Section 2.2-205 of the Code of Virginia.

The Governor's Commission on Biotechnology

As a part of this effort to bolster Virginia's leadership in the biotechnology arena, I hereby create the Governor's Commission on Biotechnology (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission"), which shall prepare a Virginia Biotechnology Strategy Implementation Plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Implementation Plan") for making Virginia a leader among states and regions of the world in biotechnology over the course of the next decade and beyond. This Commission shall be classified as a gubernatorial advisory board in accordance with Section 2.2-2100 of the Code of Virginia.

The Implementation Plan shall be based on the recommendations in the Governor's Advisory Board for the Virginia Biotechnology Initiative report titled "Recommendations for a Statewide Comprehensive and Coordinated Strategy for Biotechnology: Biotechnology Leadership Strategy and Budget Recommendations – 14 November 2003," with such changes thereto as the Commission deems appropriate. The Implementation Plan shall be inclusive of the following desired outcomes:

1. Determining how Virginia's research universities, federal and state laboratories, biotechnology incubators, research parks, private industry, and other major resources can be further leveraged to help make Virginia a more attractive location for the biotechnology industry.
2. Assessing how a strategic initiative in biotechnology can help generate new jobs and investment.
3. Determining which new industries and private sector job opportunities that Virginia is well-positioned to secure because of its workforce, location, and other advantages.
4. Examining workforce and training needs for a biotechnology workforce.
5. Investigating how a strong biotechnology industry and research capability can help Virginia protect and preserve the Commonwealth's natural resources.
6. Evaluating Virginia's competitive position compared with other states and regions in terms of leadership in biotechnology.
7. Recommending ways to enhance the research base of the Commonwealth in biotechnology, to encourage the growth of biotechnology companies, and to make Virginia a more attractive location for future investments by "life sciences" companies.

The commission shall be appointed by the Governor and serve at his pleasure. The Secretary of Commerce and Trade and the Chairman of the Virginia Biotechnology

Association shall serve as co-chairs of the Commission. The Secretary of Technology shall serve as Vice Chairman. Other members shall include:

- The Secretaries of Natural Resources, Education, and Health and Human Resources;
- Three members of the House of Delegates;
- Two members of the Senate of Virginia;
- The presidents or their designees of each of the four Virginia public research universities who have joined together in the proposed “Virginia Life” initiative;
- One representative of federal laboratories in Virginia involved in research and technology transfer in life sciences;
- The directors of the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science;
- Three representatives of not-for-profit life science and research institutions and laboratories in the Commonwealth;
- Two representatives of agricultural and tobacco interests;
- The Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership;
- The President of the Center for Innovative Technology;
- Two local economic development officials; and
- Three private biotechnology industry leaders.

Other citizen members may be appointed to the Commission by the Governor at his discretion. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation and shall not be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

Given the detailed nature of the Implementation Plan and the close coordination required, the co-chairs shall appoint an Executive Steering Committee from among the members of the Commission to form a modest-sized working group to propose and carry out the bulk of the effort. This committee shall seek counsel from the full Commission, engage the expertise of respective Commission members on an *ad hoc* basis, and provide opportunities for updates to and feedback from the full Commission during the course of developing the Implementation Plan. The Executive Steering Committee shall be responsible for summarizing the Implementation Plan in a final report.

Staff support necessary for the conduct of the work of the Commission shall be provided by the Center for Innovative Technology, the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, the Office of the Governor, and other such executive branch agencies as the Governor may designate.

An estimated 1,000 hours of staff time shall be needed to support the work of the Commission. Direct expenditures to support the Commission’s work are estimated at \$10,000.

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect until July 23, 2005, unless amended or rescinded by further Executive Order.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 23rd day of July 2004.

Mark R. Warner, Governor

Attest:

Secretary of the Commonwealth